United Nations S/2018/368

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 April 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 18 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Contrary to the misinformation campaigns that have been waged over the past few days, the Syrian Government has done everything it can to help the civilians who left eastern Ghutah after the Syrian Arab Army and its allies succeeded in liberating them from armed terrorist groups, which had been besieging them from within and using them as human shields. It has done so because it has a responsibility to provide all forms of humanitarian assistance to Syrians affected by the crisis, wherever they may be in Syrian territory. The Syrian Government, in coordination with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and its partners, have opened 15 shelters for the civilians who left eastern Ghutah. At those shelters, civilians are provided with all the food they need; electricity and water; medical services, including clinics, doctors, nurses and ambulances; and school supplies. A total of 89,461 civilians came to those shelters, but many of them have left. As at 5 April 2018, some 45,828 civilians, that is to say 34 per cent of the initial influx, continue to reside in the shelters.

Some 10 civil associations and actors, as well as chambers of industry and commerce, have contributed to this emergency response by providing all types of assistance. Meanwhile, the High Relief Committee provided the required facilitation to international organizations, which in turn provided food and health assistance, and clothing to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

The Syrian Government is now opening the door wide to the United Nations and its Member States to provide urgently needed humanitarian assistance and any other resources that those civilians may need to overcome their hardships and return to their homes in eastern Ghutah as soon as possible.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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